# Message Text

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**ACTION OPR-02** 

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FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8905

**UNCLAS HELSINKI 1555** 

PASS W.

H .-- W.H. PRESS STAFF

DEPT.--FOR A/O-- MELROSE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP ,PFOR CSCE

SUBJECT: SHOPPING INFORMATION IN HELSINKI

HELSINKI HAS A LOT TO OFFER TO ANY TOURIST IN SEARCH OF FINNISH PRODUCTS. QUICKLY AND AT A MODEST PRICE YOU WILL BE ABLE TO FIND SOMETHING THAT WILL BE A PLEASURE TO THE EYE FOR A LONG TIME TO COME. AND YOUR SOUVENIR NEED NOT BE SOMETHING THAT IS MERELY GOOD TO LOOK AT. IT CAN BE SOMETHING YOU WILL BE ABLE TO USE TOO.

THE SHOPPPING STREETS OF HELSINKI ARE ALL LOCATED IN THE MIDDLE OF THE CITY. ALEKSANTERINKATU, KAISANIEMENKATU AND THE FORUM SHOPPING CENTRE. THE BIGGEST DEPARTMENT STORES ARE DOWNTOWN TOO. THE LEADING DEPARTMENT STORE IS STOCKMANN, ALEKSANTERINKATU 52. OTHER DEPARTMENT STORES ARE SOKOS, ASEMA-AUKIO (RAILROAD STATION SQUARE), ELANTO-CENTRUM, ALEKSANERINKATU 9 AND SILTASSARENKATU 8-10 AND FORUM, MANNERIHEIMINTIE WPM HELSINKIN DEPARTMENT STORES HAVE EXCELLENT SELECTIONS OF FINNISH GOODS. THERE ARE ALSO A LARGE NUMBER OF SPECIALITY SHOPS AND BOUTIQUES, AND YOU CAN WANDER ABOUT AND EXPLORE. TO GET TO KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT FINNISH ARTICLES, THE CONVENIENT THING TO DO IS TO START AT UNCLASSIFIED

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THE FINNISH DESIGN CENTER (ADDRESS KASARMIKATU 19),

WHERE A LARGE NUMBER OF COLLECTIONS ARE ON DISPLAY.

#### PRACTICAL TIPS

THE SHOPS ARE USUALLY OPEN ON WEEKDAYS FROM 9 AM TO 5 PM (SATURDAYS FROM 9 AM TO 3 PM). ON MONDAYS AND FRIDAYS A LOT OF SHOPS AND DEPARTMENT STORES ARE OPEN LATER -USUALLY UNTIL 8 PM. THE SHOPS IN THE RAILWAY STATION TUNNEL ARE OPEN UNTIL 10 PM EVERY DAY INCLUDING SUNDAY, INTERNATIONS CREDIT CARDS ARE ACCEPTED IN A LARGE NUMBER OF SHOPS, BUT IT IS ALWAYS BETTER TO MAKE SURE IN ADVANCE. NOTE THAT PERSONAL CHEQUES WILL NOT USUALLY BE CASHED WHEN TENDERED BY PEOPLE FROM OTHER COUNTRIES. MANY DEPARTMENT STORES HAVE AN EXPORT DEPARTMENT WHICH WILL ATTEND TO THE PACKING AND DISPATCHING OF YOUR PURCHASES.

### TYPICALLY FINNISH

PRODUCTS OF COUNTRY CRAFT WILL BE FOUND IN A LOT OF DIFFERENT SHOPS - FOR INSTANCE, VARIOUS KINDS OF WORK IN WOOD OR TEXTILES. AND EVEN IF YOU WANT A REINDEER SKIN AS A SOUVENIR, YOU WILL BE ABLE TO FIND ONE IN THE DEPARTMENT STORES.

ADDRESSES: CORALLO,ANNANKATU 33;HELSKY, ANNANAKTU 16; POPPANA, LIISANKATU 19; SAUNA-SOPPI-SHOP, LASIPALATSI.

### GLASS, CERAMICS

FINNISH GLASS AND CERAMICS MAKE NICE PRESENTS FOR YOUR FRIENDS - OR FOR YOURSELF. THERE IS A RANGE FOR EVERY TASTE - CLEANLINED UTILITY ARTICLES,

VARIOUS SETS AND SERIES, FANCY MODELS INTENDED FOR DECORATION ALONE. THE BEST-KNOWN MAKE IS ARABIA. PRODUCTS BY MANY OTHER MANUFACTURESRS ARE ON DISPLAY IN THE DEPARTMENT STORES AND THE SPECIALITY SHOPS. ADDRESSES: ARTEK, KESKUSAKATU 3; TALLBERG, ALEKSANTERINKATU 21; WARTSILA SHOP; POHJOISESPLANADI 25.

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JEWELRY OF METAL..

A PIECE OF JEWELRY IS A PERMANENT KEEPSAKE TO REMIND YOU OF YOUR TRIP. AND FINNISH JEWELRY IS QUALITY WARE-YOU CAN BE ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN OF WHAT YOU ARE GETTING FOR YOUR MONEY. IN MODERN DESIGN LAPPONIA JEWELRY BY BJORN WECKSTROM OR THE CREATIONS OF PEKKA PIE-KAINEN ARE THE THING.

ADDRESSES: KALEVAL KORU, KESKUSKATU 4; POHJOLAN KELLO, MIKONKATU 3; TURUN KULTASEPPA, ALEKSANTERINKATU 36; KULTAMAX, MIKONKATU2; OSK LINDRO , ALEKSANTERINKATU 48.

...AND OF WOOD

AARIKKA, FOR INSTANCE, MAKES LOTS OF LOVELY THINGS OUT OF WOOD- JEWELRY, CANDLESTICKS (YOU CAN BUY THE CANDLES THERE TOO), TOYS, OTHER OBJECTS. MANY OTHER MANUFACTURERS ALSO USE WOOD AS THEIR RAW MATERIAL. AND NOTE THE GAY COLOURS OF THE ARTICLES

ADDRESSES: AARIKKA, UNIONINKATU 28, AND BULEVARDI 7.

SOMETHING NEW TO WEAR

MARIMEKKO AND VUOKKO ARE NAMES THAT WILL ALREADY BE KNOWN TO MANY TRAVELLERS. BOTH MAKE TIMELESS, VERSATILE AND EVEN STARTLING ITEMS OF WEAR. OF COURSE, THERE ARE MORE CONSERVATIVE COLLECTIONS TOO. A COMMON FACTOR IN FINNISH WEAR -IT IS USUALLY GOOD QUALITY.

ADDRESSES: AROLA, KALEVANKATU 4; ATELJEE ANNIKKI KARVINEN, UUDENMAANKATU 2; KUUSINEN, ALEKSANTERINKATU 46-48; LENA REWELL SHOP, MARIANKATU 15 AND MANNERHEIMINTIE 46, HOTEL INTER-CONTINENTAL; LOLLO, POHJOISESPLANADI 35 AND KAIVO-KATU 10; MARIMEKKO, POHJOISESPLANADI 31 AND KESKUSKATU 3; HALONEN, POHJOISESPLANADI 37; VUOKKO, FABIANINKATU 12; MERIKATU1, POHJOISESPLANADI25.

FURS, LEATHER UNCLASSIFIED

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MANY PEOPLE COME TO FINLAND JUST TO BUT THEIR FURS - BECAUSE OF THE QUALITY AND THE FAVOURABLE PRICE. THE SAGA MINK IS INTERNATIONALLY COVETED. AND THAT DOES NOT MAKE UP THE WHOLE RANGE.

SMART LEATHER GOODS ARE PRODUCED BY FRIITALA AND MANY OTHERS. NOT ONLY COATS, SHOES AND BAGS. BUT SKIRTS, TROUSERS AND BLOUSES TOO.

ADDRESSES: OSMAN ALI, YRJONKATU 8; COPPER DOOR, KALEVANKATU 15; HAMUNEN (FOOTWEAR), ETELAESPLANADI 22.

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